



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
PROGRAM PLANNING AND INTEGRATION
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

OCT 27 2005

Dear Reviewer:

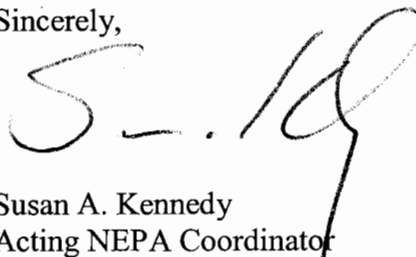
In accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, we enclose for your review the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement – Towards an Ecosystem Approach for the Western Pacific Region: From Species-based Fishery Management Plans to Placed-based Fishery Ecosystems Plans (DEIS).

The DEIS analyzes the impacts on the human environment resulting from the first phase of the implementation of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management in the western Pacific region. The western Pacific region consists of America Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the United States Pacific remote island areas. The Pacific remote island areas include Baker Island, Howland Island, Johnston Atoll, Kingman Reef, Wake Island, Palmyra Atoll, and Midway Island. The objective of the Federal action considered in this DEIS is to take a practical and timely step towards an ecosystem approach, which fosters management that is specified geographically, adaptive, takes account of ecosystem knowledge and uncertainties, considers multiple external influences, and balances diverse social objectives.

Additional copies of the DEIS may be obtained from William Robinson, Regional Administrator; 1601 Kapiolani Boulevard, Suite 1110, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814, 808-973-2937. The document is also accessible electronically through the Pacific Islands Regional Office and Western Pacific Fishery Management Council websites at <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/pir> and www.wpcouncil.org, respectively.

Comments or questions on this document submitted during the agency's 45-day review period for the DEIS must be received by December 19, 2005. Written comments should be submitted by mail to: William L. Robinson, Pacific Islands Regional Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Honolulu, HI 96814. Comments may be submitted by facsimile (fax) to 808-973-2941. Electronic comments may be submitted by e-mail to WPEAMPEIS@noaa.gov; include in the comment subject line the following document identifier: Draft Programmatic EIS. A copy of your comments should be submitted to me by mail to the NOAA Strategic Planning Office (PPI/SP), SSMC3, Room 15603, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910; by fax to 301-713-0585; or by e-mail to nepa.comments@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,



Susan A. Kennedy
Acting NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure



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